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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 EB-08 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /085 W
----------290730Z 034851 /11
R 281459Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0017
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 3290

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, SP, GW
SUBJECT: VISIT OF JUAN CARLOS TO GERMANY

REF: BONN 7003, MADRID 3241

1. THE PERCEPTION FROM MADRID CLOSELY ECHOES THAT FROM
BONN (REFTEL) REGARDING THE VISIT OF KING JUAN CARLOS AND
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QUEEN SOFIA TO GERMANY, WITH EMPHASIS ON THE EXCELLENT
ATMOSPHERE AND RELATIVELY LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE TO BE NOTED.
THE FULL AND OFTEN FULSOME PRESS COVERAGE WAS HEAVY ON THE
CORDIAL WELCOME ACCORDED THE ROYAL COUPLE, AND ON ASSERTIONS
OF HIGH GERMAN INTEREST IN HAVING GOOD RELATIONS WITH
SPAIN. (ONE THEORY AIRED IN THE PRESS WAS THAT GERMANY
WAS ANXIOUS TO HEAD OFF THE FORMATION WITHIN THE EC OF A

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"LATIN BLOC" HEADED BY FRANCE, HENCE THE SPECIAL GERMAN
CONCERN.) PAPERS HERE ALSO NOTED AT SOME LENGTH THE
CONCERNS EXPRESSED TO JUAN CARLOS BY SPANISH WORKERS IN
GERMANY OVER THEIR VARIOUS PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY REGARDING
THE EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILDREN, AND ONE PAPER HEADLINED
ONE OF ITS STORIES "FOR NOW THERE IS PRAISE, BUT THE
MARKS ARE MISSING."

2. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S CHIEF FOR WESTERN EUROPE (DEL
PINO) PARALLELED THESE POINTS IN TALKING WITH EMBOFF ABOUT
THE VISIT, NOTING IN PASSING SPAIN'S GOOD FORTUNE IN
HAVING SUCH ATTRACTIVE MONARCHS. GERMANY IS INDEED
INTERESTED IN GOOD RELATIONS WITH SPAIN, HE SAID (ALTHOUGH
HE DOUBTED THE SPECIFIC POINT ABOUT A LATIN BLOC), BECAUSE
OF ITS CONSIDERABLE COMMERCIAL AND INVESTMENT INTERESTS
HERE, BECAUSE OF ITS CONCERN AS A "FRONT-LINE" COUNTRY FOR
SECURITY AND STABILITY IN THE REST OF EUROPE, AND BEACUSE
OF A NATURAL DESIRE THAT "SPAIN'S SPECIAL RELATIONS WITH
FRANCE NOT BE TOO SPECIAL." HE ALSO SAID IT WAS TO BE
HOPED THAT GOOD WILL WOULD BE TRANSLATED INTO AGREEMENTS,
AND AGREEMENTS INTO PERFORMANCE. (WE NOTE GERMANY IS SPAIN'S
SECOND-LARGEST MARKET AND THIRD-LARGEST SUPPLIER).

3. DEL PINO, DISCUSSING SPAIN'S FISHING PROBLEM WITH THE
EC IN ANOTHER CONTEXT, STRESSED THE GOS' CONCERN THAT A
SOLUTION BE FOUND. STATING THAT THE COMMERCIAL AND
ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM WERE NOT SUCH A
WORRY, SINCE SOLUTIONS IN THOSE AREAS WERE SIMPLER, HE EMPHASIZED
THE ACUTENESS OF THE POLITICAL PROBLEM BECAUSE OF THE REGIONS
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INVOLVED (ESPECIALLY THE BASQUE COUNTRY) AND THE DANGER
THAT THE REAL PROBLEMS OF HUNDREDS OF AFFECTED FAMILIES
COULD BE EXPLOITED BY RADICAL GROUPS FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL
PURPOSES. THE VERY LOW NUMBERS GRANTED SPAIN BY THE NEW
RULES APPEARED TO BE AN ERROR OF CALCULATION, HE SAID
(ALTHOUGH HE LATER IMPLIED A SUSPICION THAT THE ERROR WAS
NOT INADVERTENT), AND THE GOS HAD EXPRESSED ITS POSITION
VIGOROUSLY. WITHIN THE COMMUNITY, HE ADDED, SOME WERE
TOUGH ON THE ISSUE (HE NAMED FRANCE AND IRELAND), SOME WERE
INCLINED TO BE SYMPATHETIC, AND SOME WERE JUST INDIFFERENT:
HE HAD NO PREDICTION REGARDING THE PROSPECTS FOR SOLUTION,
BUT VOWED SPAIN WOULD KEEP PRESSING. EATON

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Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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